



Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

August 12-18, 2013

Hydrilla

Hydrilla verticillata

Origin: Unknown of origination. Some reports state Asia, Africa, and Australia.

Also known as: Water thyme, Florida elodea, Indian star-vine

Current Distribution: On every continent except Antarctica. Mainly in southeastern region of the U.S. However, there are reports as north as Indiana. NOT YET IN MICHIGAN!

Means of Introduction: Aquarium trade

Description: Federally listed as a Noxious Weed. It is also listed in Michigan as Prohibited Plant Species. Hydrilla is a submerged, rooted perennial with whorls of five, but can be 3-8. Thin rough leaves. Small spines give the leaf margin a toothed appearance; midribs red and often spiny. Hydrilla also has tubers-fleshy enlarged portions of the stem. Similar to native Elodea, however the Elodea has whorls of three.

Impacts: Crowds out native species, impedes water recreational activities.

Habitat: Found in lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and ditches.



Photo: Rashavan Charudattan, U of Florida



Hydrilla leaf whorl. Photo: K. Hahnel, ME DEP.



For more information on hydrilla, including
indentification and distribution, please visit
Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at
www.misin.msu.edu